

REMARKS

Drawings

The Applicants do not agree that the subject matter of this application admits of illustration by drawing to facilitate understanding of the invention (37 C.F.R. 1.81). The invention describes a novel alanine dosimeter that detects and measures absorbed ionizing radiation. Additionally, the dosimeter bears an identification mark that may reside on the dosimeter in any one of several art-recognized ways. The purpose of the mark is simply to identify the source of radiation exposure. The general state of the art is such that an illustration by drawing would add nothing to facilitate understanding of the invention.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his request for a drawing.

Specification

The Applicant has amended the Abstract by replacing "said" with "the" in two instances.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-16 are objected to because of the language "capable of" that appears in independent claim 1. The claim has been amended and now recites "for" as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 14 is objected to because a space is needed between the word "claim" and the number "12" in line I. The claim has been amended accordingly.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Donahue et al. (US 5,637,876). The Examiner contends that Donahue et al. disclose a method for measuring a level of exposure to radiation using a measuring device and methods similar to those disclosed in the application.

The claims have been amended to recite that the dosimeter contains alanine and that, upon exposure to ionizing radiation, radicals are produced which are detected to show exposure to radiation. This is very different from Donohue's teaching to dissolve detectable colorants in a polymer and then to look for color change. The rejection is therefore respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 103

Claims 8, 12-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donahue et al. (US 5,637,876) in view of Morita et al. (US 4,668,714).

Donahue et al. are cited as above and Morita is added for their teaching of using rubber and alanine. The rubber and alanine crystal are mixed between a lower and upper limit to produce a uniform composition of rubber and alanine. Therefore, a dosimetry with high precision and reproductivity can be performed (col. 1, ll. 57+ and col. 2, ll. 1-9). Along with the disclosed advantages of alanine crystal, Morita et al. suggest using a binder agent (synthetic or natural rubber) that produces a very small amount of radicals upon exposure to radiation and or that has its heat resistance improved by cross-linking treatment (col. 3, ll. 27-33).


The Examiner concludes that in view of Morita et al., it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ a molded dosimeter containing a rubber as a binder agent and crystalline alanine in addition to the radiation dosimetry method of Donahue et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate original claim 11 which states that the alanine is "coated", not molded, on the support. It is widely art recognized that injection molding is a very different process from injection molding. With coating, the artisan must overcome adhesion problems and therefore must select binders with physical characteristics that are suitable for the coating process. Morita therefore provides no teaching or incentive for the Applicants. The rejection is therefore respectfully traversed with respect to claims and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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